Medical tourism

2011. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medical tourism is opening new vistas of foreign earnings;

(b) whether it is also a fact that countries like USA are seriously considering to avail of cheaper medical facilities;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the medical facilities available to citizens at home would become more costlier;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to address the situation; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to ensure investment of fixed part of these foreign earnings for creating more health infrastructure and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is not aware of any such development in USA or in any other country

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No Sir, Government does not collect separate information in respect of foreign exchange earned through visits of medical tourists. The hospitals in private sector are providing treatment under medical tourism and they are further strengthening health infrastructure.

Ayush medicines

2012. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ayush system for certain type of diseases is cheap and best;

(b) if so, what are such 10 to 15 major areas of diseases to which this system can be unique and relied upon;

(c) what are the measures taken to promote and propagate these systems on the one side and the steps taken to ensure easy access and availability on the other side and whether there will be a time frame for it; and

(d) whether the homoeopaths are competent and safe enough to conduct deliveries?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The different AYUSH systems have definite strengths with respect to certain conditions and diseases.

(b) AYUSH systems have strengths in the treatment of the following:—

(i) Fistula in ano and piles;

(ii) Neuromuscular disorders;

(iii) Allergic disorders;

(iv) Liver disorders;

(v) Skin disorders;

(vi) Children disorders;

(vii) Dysmenorrhoea, metrorrhagia and menopausal syndrome.

(c) In order to promote and propagate AYUSH system, the Government has established
a separate Department of AYUSH for the purpose. Four research councils *i.e.* Central Council
for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS),

Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) and Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN) have been established for undertaking research into their respective systems. The Government has also set up National Institutes for Ayurveda, Siddha, yoga, Naturopathy and Homoeopathy so as to provide quality medical education in the respective systems. In order to encourage the integration of AYUSH facilities with mainstream health care, the Government has been providing financial assistance under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. In addition to this, the mainstreaming of AYUSH is one of the objectives under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the co-location of AYUSH dispensaries in 3528 Community Health Centres (CHCs)/Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the States has already been taken in hand. Under the NRHM, 452 AYUSH doctors have been appointed on contract basis to mainstream the AYUSH facilities at primary health care level in different States. The Government has also taken steps to encourage the cultivation of medicinal plants so as to ensure that quality raw material is available to the AYUSH drug manufacturers. In order to improve the quality of medical education, the Government provides financial assistance for the upgradation of infrastructure and facilities in AYUSH medical colleges.

To provide safe AYUSH medicines to the consumers in India and abroad, the Government has taken the following steps:—

(i) Mandatory testing for heavy metals in all purely herbal Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines to be exported effective from 1.1.2006 to meet the regulatory requirements of importing countries;

(ii) 29 State Drug Testing Laboratories have been strengthened and 26 Pvt. Drug Testing Laboratories and other NABL accredited laboratories have been approved for testing of ASU drugs in the country;

(iii) A research project has been sanctioned under the Golden Triangle Partnership Project to study the physiochemical characteristics of 8 most widely used Bhasmas and to carry out their toxicity studies;

(iv) Good Manufacturing Practices have been made mandatory for all Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drug manufacturing units in the country;

The allocation for the Department of AYUSH in the Eleventh Plan has been inscrease to Rs. 3988.00 crores. The allocation of the Department of AYUSH for the Tenth Plan was Rs. 775.00 crores.

(d) Institutionally qualifed homoeopathic practitioners are competent to handle normal deliveries.